

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for storing units of incoming video data on a storage medium comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing different ~~levels of~~ priority levels for video data of
5 different types;
 - b. establishing at least one rule for each ~~video data type of said~~
priority levels, wherein one of said rules comprises a retention
time;
 - c. assigning ~~[[a]]~~ one of said priority levels and a creation time to
10 each unit of incoming video data ~~according to its type~~;
 - d. storing said units of incoming video data on said storage medium
until all storage locations thereon are occupied; and
 - e. thereafter ~~identifying stored video data at each priority level and~~
~~applying said at least one rule to each priority level to identify~~
15 ~~stored data that may be overwritten,~~ for each unit of incoming
video data, and beginning at the lowest priority level and
continuing to successively higher priority levels until sufficient
storage locations have been identified to store said units of
incoming video data;
- 20 (i) examining stored video data and identifying a location
on said medium where the difference between the creation
time of the incoming video and the creation time of video
data stored at such location is greater than the retention

time applicable to said priority level; and [[f.]]

(ii) storing said unit[[s]] of incoming video data by
overwriting said ~~identified~~ stored video data at said
identified location.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein during said
examining step the difference between the creation time of said each incoming unit of
video data and the creation time of video data stored at such location is at least equal to
the retention time applicable to said priority level ~~is maintained and at least one of said~~
10 ~~rules is based on the age of the data.~~

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein in the event that
15 more than one stored video at a given priority level is determined to be expendable, the
oldest such video is overwritten first by the incoming video.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said
priority levels ~~calls for indefinitely maintaining video data that is assigned such priority~~
20 ~~level~~ comprises an infinite retention time.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1 wherein at least two
different priority levels are established, and a rule for each of said priority levels [[has]]

comprises a different retention time such that ~~with longer retention times assigned to~~
successively higher priority levels have successively longer retention times.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 comprising the additional
5 step of ~~changing~~ reassigning the priority level of at least one stored video data unit[[s]] in
real time in order to change the availability of the space occupied by [[that]] the
associated data on [[the]] said storage medium.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the types of data
10 are selected from the group consisting of: alarm, pre-alarm, event, pre-event, archive,
continuous, scheduled, user-defined, and combinations thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for prioritizing ~~video~~ data to determine
which of a plurality of stored data on a filled storage medium [[will]] may be overwritten
15 ~~to make way for~~ with new data comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing different priority levels for stored [[video]] data ~~of~~
~~different types~~;
- b. establishing at least one rule for maintaining stored [[video]] data
~~of a given~~ at each of said priority levels, wherein one of said rules
20 includes a retention time;
- c. assigning [[a]] one of said priority levels and a creation time to
each new data unit ~~according to its type~~; and

d. ~~if empty storage locations are available on said medium, storing units of video data in said empty storage locations;~~

e. ~~if empty storage locations are not available, identifying stored video data at each priority level and applying said at least one rule to each priority level to identify stored data that may be overwritten, beginning [[at]] with the lowest of said priority levels and continuing to successively higher priority levels, and also beginning with stored data having the oldest creation time and continuing to stored data having successively younger creation dates and times, identifying stored data that may be overwritten as that data for which the difference between the creation time of the incoming data and the creation time of the stored data is at least equal to the retention time applicable to the priority level of said stored data, until sufficient storage locations have been identified to store said units of incoming video data; and~~

f. ~~overwriting said stored video data in said identified storage locations with said new video data.~~

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 comprising the additional step of ~~changing~~ reassigning the priority level of stored [[video]] data [[units]] in real time in order to change the availability of the space occupied by the associated [[video]] data on the storage medium.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein in the event that more than one stored [[video]] data unit at a given priority level is determined to be expendable, the oldest such [[video]] data unit is overwritten first by [[the]] a new [[video]] data unit.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for managing units of incoming video data and units of stored video data on a storage medium comprising the steps of:

10 a. establishing a set of priority levels for video data of different types;

 b. establishing at least one rule for maintaining video data ~~of a given~~
 at each of said priority levels, wherein one of said rules comprises
 a retention time;

 c. assigning [[a]] one of said priority levels and a creation time to
15 each [[new]] incoming video data unit ~~according to its type;~~

 d. using a table to maintain at least [[the]] an assigned priority level, a
 creation [[date]] time, and an address for any units of video data
 stored at each of a plurality of storage locations on said storage
 medium;

20 e. if said table reflects that empty storage locations are available on
 said storage medium, storing [[each]] said units of [[new]]
 incoming video data in [[such]] those empty storage locations and
 updating the corresponding entries in said table~~[[;]]~~ and

f. if units of incoming video data remain to be stored and said table reflects that empty storage locations are not available on said storage medium, then scanning said table to identify existing an entry for a stored video data unit that may be overwritten, said scan beginning at the lowest of said [[at each]] priority levels and beginning with the oldest creation time at such priority level, and moving progressively forward from the oldest entry within each priority level, and progressively upward from the lowest priority level:

(i) identifying a table entry corresponding to a storage location where the difference between the creation time of the incoming video and the creation time reflected in the table entry for such location is greater than the retention time applicable to said priority level, and for each such identified entry and applying said rules to each priority level, to identify stored data that may be overwritten, beginning at the lowest priority level and continuing to successively higher priority levels until sufficient storage locations have been identified to store said units of incoming video data; and

[[g.]] (ii) overwriting said existing the stored video data at the in said identified storage location[[s]] corresponding to the identified table entry with said new video data and updating the corresponding entry[[ies] in said table.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein in the event that
5 more than one stored video at a given priority level is determined to be expendable, the
oldest such video is overwritten first by the new video.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of examining stored video
data further comprises the steps of identifying stored video data at a priority level having
10 the oldest creation time, and skipping to the next higher priority level if the difference
between the creation time of the incoming video and the creation time of the stored video
data currently being examined is not greater than the retention time applicable to said
priority level.

15 20. (New) A method for storing units of incoming video data on a storage
medium comprising the steps of:

- a. establishing different priority levels for video data;
- b. establishing at least one rule for each of said priority levels,
wherein one of said rules comprises a retention time;
- 20 c. assigning one of said priority levels and a creation time to each
unit of incoming video data;
- d. storing said units of incoming video data on said storage medium
until all storage locations thereon are occupied; and

- 5 e. thereafter, for each unit of incoming video data, beginning at the lowest priority level and continuing to successively higher priority levels, examining stored video data and, beginning with a stored video data having the oldest creation time and continuing to stored video data having successively younger creation dates and times, determining whether the difference between the creation time of the incoming video and the creation time of the stored video currently being examined is not greater than the retention time applicable to said priority level, and
- 10 (i) if so, then skipping to the next higher priority level and continuing the examination of stored video; and
- (ii) if not, then storing said unit of incoming video data by overwriting said current stored video data.

15 21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said assigned priority level corresponds to a type of video data.

22. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein at least one rule may be changed in real time.

20 23. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of identifying stored video at a priority level having the oldest creation time, and skipping to the next higher priority level if the difference between the creation time of the incoming video and

the creation time of the stored video currently being examined is less than the retention time applicable to said priority level.

24. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said assigned priority level
5 corresponds to a type of video data.